

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY S/P:D/LOS STAFF:AFR

APPROVED BY D:THE ACTING SECRETARY

D:RPOATS

D/LOS:ETLONG

S/P:NVELIOTES

L:MR. ALDRICH

OES:FIRVING

EB:JKATZ

S/S - APSHANKLE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS NIACT IMMEDIATE

USDEL SECRETARY NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 299908 TOSEC 320148

EXDIS FROM ROBINSON TO THE SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PLOS

SUBJECT: LOS: DEEP SEABEDS--FRENCH VIEWS

REF. PARIS 36273

SECRETARY'S PARTY ALSO PASS LORD

PARIS FOR AMBASSADOR LEARSON

1. REFTTEL REPEATED TO THE SECRETARY REPORTS INFORMAL
FRENCH SUGGESTION THAT PRINCIPAL MARITIME STATES MIGHT
WISH TO CONSIDER INTERIM AGREEMENT AMONG THEMSELVES ON
DEEP SEABED MINING. REPORT IS UNCLEAR WHETHER FRENCH
ARE SUGGESTING THAT THIS POSSIBILITY BE EXPLORED IN
NEXT FEW MONTHS OR WHETHER IT IS SIMPLY SOMETHING TO
KEEP IN MIND IF NEXT LOS CONFERENCE SESSION PROVES
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UNPRODUCTIVE.

2. WE ARE UNCLEAR AS TO THE FRENCH MOTIVATION AND INTENTION. IN ANY EVENT WE BELIEVE THIS INITIATIVE IS WORTHY OF FURTHER EXAMINATION. AMBASSADOR LEARSON IS AUTHORIZED THEREFORE TO GET BACK TO THE FRENCH, AND INQUIRE WHETHER THEY HAD EXPLORED OR INTENDED TO EXPLORE THE ISSUE WITH THEIR EC COLLEAGUES, ENCOURAGING THE FRENCH TO DO SO. WITHOUT

INDICATING ANY U.S. QTE POSITION ENDQTE LEARSON SHOULD CONFIDENTIALLY EXPLORE FRENCH IDEA WITH THE FRG AND NORWAY.

3. AMONG THE QUESTIONS THAT COME TO MIND ARE WHETHER ANY JOINT ARRANGEMENT OR OPEN DISCUSSION OF THAT POSSIBILITY AMONG THE INDUSTRIAL POWERS WOULD IN FACT ENDANGER PROSPECTS FOR ACHIEVING A COMPREHENSIVE TREATY, OR, ALTERNATIVELY, MIGHT ACCELERATE PROGRESS TOWARD A TREATY.

4. FYI: IF OTHER EUROPEANS CONSULTED SHARE FRENCH VIEWS THAT SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT SHOULD BE DEVELOPED PRIOR TO USG OR OTHER NATIONAL SUPPORT OF LEGISLATION, THIS INFORMATION WOULD HAVE AN IMPORTANT BEARING ON THE PENDING NSC OPTIONS PAPER. END FYI.

5. FOR THE SECRETARY: IF YOU HAVE ANY OBJECTION TO THE COURSE OF ACTION OUTLINED ABOVE, PLEASE SO INFORM LEARSON AND THE DEPARTMENT. ROBINSON

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